

Attendees:

**On the phone** – S. von Oettingen, Dick Bien, Lisa Todd, Jim Dowd, 1 unknowns just phone numbers.

**In-person** – C. Mostello, D. Gilmore, K. Walker, C. Benazos, S. Day, D. Scott, B. McGlathery, C. Luttazi, H. Esposito, J. Esposito, B. Gosselin, D. Gould, S. MacCallum, T. Campbell, L. Leonard, F. Winterson, D. Bosworth, M. Pinto, Casey Meichsner, Darryn Meichsner, R. Holden, M. O'Neil Holden, M. Bartlett, D. Scott, B. Gray, L. Neacy.

Agenda:

- Report out of Action Items from the last meeting.
- Duxbury Beach Reservation (DBR) has additional information about the Road.
- David Gould will talk about Plymouth's participation.
- Dan Gilmore will talk about DEP regulations.
- Cover spreadsheet list of "potential paths" (options).

Last meeting's action items:

- Residents – name for group, rules for participation. Did not get together to discuss. For now, Saquish-Gurnet workgroup.
- Website has been established by the MassWildlife for this effort – Gurnet-Saquish Work Group. Will have final meeting minutes, public website, "orphan webpage" have to search for it in a browser. Has Agendas, Presentations, Meeting Minutes, Additional Information. **Mass.gov/service-details/gurnet-saquish-work-group.**

Duxbury Beach Reservation presentation: Gurnet Road

- See presentation for DBR property lines. DBR has responsibility for parking lot maintenance, Town owns the Powder Point Bridge. Property ends at the revetment (before 1<sup>st</sup> house). During the plover season, checkpoints keep vehicles from plover areas (during the day).
- Timeline – see presentation.
- Maintenance – Any road work must comply with regulatory timelines and provisions. Historically DBR maintained parts of the road as DBR has the opportunity.
- 2007-present: FEMA has denied grants to DBR related to beach repair and road maintenance.
- Regulation – see slide. G-S property owners manage access to their property, Town of Duxbury manages recreational vehicle access to DBR property. Town of Duxbury responsible for speed limit enforcement.
- DBR may have some changes to road management. Needs a storm water management plan, but there are state regs. that need to be followed. Focus will be trying to avoid pothole creation, a drainage issue.
- No winter checkpoints to keep non-residents from using the road.
- Note, Town of Plymouth does not maintain access during the winter (at least recently).

David Gould – Town of Plymouth:

- Town of Plymouth is not responsible for maintaining a "right of way". Discussion about past winter plowing, and how to request the Town of Plymouth to assist in plowing the road in the winter. Since the road is private, the municipality has no responsibility over maintaining a private road. There is a process to request the Town to maintain the road. Town of Plymouth

has spent funds on private roads before, but it has to be voted on at town meetings. Residents could apply to Gravel Roads Advisory Committee.

- Oversees beach management, gets requests for upkeep, maintenance of private beaches. Do not maintain private beaches. Supplement MAS funding for plover monitoring on other beaches (G-S). Uses Revolving Fund to fund monitors on beaches; funds derived from beach parking fees and stickers.
- How are trespassers managed at G-S? Plymouth police should respond to trespass calls.
- **To discuss in the future** – trespassers. Need a session with experts on trespass law and how it applies to the G-S situation.

#### D. Gilmore (MA DEP) –

- Travel in the intertidal zone (tidal flats). Discussed Barrier Beach Management Guidelines, MA Wetlands Protection Act WPA (see website). Off road vehicle use is subject to the WPA. Travel should occur in least environmentally sensitive areas. Recreational driving/parking shouldn't be allowed. Try to designate parking areas out of intertidal. File Notice of Intent to get access plan approved. Parking between high and low tide lines unlikely to be approved.
- Question re: the Boulevard and issues regarding DEP regs. should be a separate issue than vehicle access via Gurnet Road/King Arthur? However, there is a link between Boulevard and endangered species – if unfledged plover chicks present, then driving in the intertidal zone is problematic under the MESA. Thought to treat the issues together because both access via the road and the Boulevard affect all G-S residents.
- Discussed existence of a homeowner beach access plan in Aquinnah, Martha's Vineyard for access to private properties. Look for existing plan – **MADFW or MADEP will follow up on this.**
- Who is driving on the flats? Combination of owners, guests, trespassers. Managing the Boulevard is a challenge – about 150 lots abutting the Boulevard. 100% of the Western Blvd. and Saquish Head have to use the Blvd. without trespassing on someone else's property. Discussion ensued about access during the high/low tides.
- **Suggestion that access gets detailed on a map (apparently has been done, needs to be shared – upload to website?).**
- ~150 homes along the Blvd. Some homes (at least 8?) trapped at high tide.
- Note, intertidal zone is plover habitat as is the barrier beach. But note: limited areas along the Blvd. that are used by nesting plovers on G-S. Forage in intertidal habitat, nesting above the high tide line on beaches. Area between the crossover and the big square one? Morse? – is a prime plover habitat.
- **To discuss in the future** – What to do in the absence of 100% resident participation in managing road/vehicle access?

#### Misc.

- Review of spreadsheet outlining potential path to take and the pros/cons of each: Reviewed "factors", but didn't get further than that. Note changes to spreadsheet from suggestions from the working group.
- Need a communications plan about the factors explained tonight for the people who cannot participate. Who will develop? How?
- Suggest pulling out the discussion on the Blvd. and discussing separately.
- Next meeting, December 10<sup>th</sup>, will try to meet at the same place, same time.